

Appl'n No: 10/568,320
Amdt dated September 25, 2007
Reply to Office action of June 25, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings, including Figures 2-6, replace the previously submitted sheets of drawings including Figures 2-6. More specifically, Applicant has amended Figures 2-6. Each replacement sheet has been clearly labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets of drawings including Figures 2-6

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9-20 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 14 were previously withdrawn. Claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1 and 15 are in independent form.

Election/Restrictions

1-3. The Examiner contends that the above-captioned application contains claims directed to the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept:

Group I, claims 1-12 and 15-19, drawn to a bumper fascia.

Group II, claims 13 and 14, drawn to a method of molding a bumper fascia.

Applicant affirms the provisional election to continue prosecution of Group I identified by the Examiner. For Group I, Applicant will select claims 1-12 and 15-19.

Specification

The specification has been amended to clarify terminology set forth in the application as filed. Applicant attests that no new matter has been added thereto.

Drawings

Applicant has attached 3 replacement sheets of drawings (including Figures 2-6) directly following these Remarks. Each replacement sheet has been labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header as per 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d).

In amended Figure 2, reference character "201" has been added to identify the show surface 201 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042].

In amended Figure 3, reference character "204" has been added to identify the rear side 204 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042].

In amended Figure 4, reference character “201” has been added to identify the show surface 201 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042]. Additionally, reference character “204” has been added to identify the rear side 204 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042].

In amended Figure 5, reference character “201” has been added to identify the show surface 201 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042]. Additionally, reference character “204” has been added to identify the rear side 204 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0042].

In amended Figure 6, reference character “601” has been added to identify the show surface 601 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0051]. Additionally, reference character “604” has been added to identify the rear side 604 in order to correspond with the description in paragraph [0053].

Applicant attests that no new matter has been added thereto.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

4-5. Claims 1-12 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

First, the Examiner states that claims 1 and 15 lack antecedent to “the show surface.” In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 by deleting “the show surface” and inserting “a show surface,” as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 15 by setting forth “a show surface” such that there is now proper antecedent for “the show surface.”

Second, the Examiner states that claims 2 and 16 should accordingly be -- the show surface --. In response, Applicant has amended claim 2 and 16 by deleting “a show surface” and inserting “the show surface,” as suggested by the Examiner.

Third, the Examiner states that claim 9 lacks antecedent for "the proximal end." In response, Applicant has amended claim 9 by deleting "the proximal end" and inserting "a proximal end of the containing portion," as suggested by the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

6-7. Claims 1-12 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,839,943 to Burkhardt et al. ("the '943 reference") in view of U.S. Patent 5,860,685 to Horney et al. ("the '685 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 of the above-captioned application, as amended, includes the limitation of "elongated ridges extending along the first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of the component in the component mounting."

Neither of the cited references discloses elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting, as required by amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application. The Examiner characterizes the tongues 7 in the '943 reference as equivalent to the ridges in the above-captioned application. The ridges in the above-captioned application, however, extend along the first and second resilient members which are part of the component mounting. The tongues 7 in the '943 reference are provided on the plug-in element 6, which is held by a snap fastening between the arms 3 of the receiver. The tongues 7 do not extend along the arms 3 of the receiver. Thus, the '943 reference clearly fails to disclose elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting. As a result, Applicant contends that the claimed subject matter set forth in amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Claims 2-12 depend from amended claim 1 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 2-12 must be read as including the limitation of elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting.

Claim 15 of the above-captioned application, as amended, includes the limitation of “a containing portion having a through-hole for housing the sensor and for allowing the sensor to sense an object therethrough, said through-hole defining a rounded edge at the show surface of the fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to the rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface, said containing portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being integrally molded to the rear side of the fascia.”

Neither of the cited references discloses a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface, as required by amended claim 15 of the above-captioned application. The Examiner characterizes the '943 reference as having “a rounded proximal end.” The '943 reference, however, clearly does not disclose a through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia *and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface*.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor,

the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface. As a result, Applicant contends that the claimed subject matter set forth in amended claim 15 of the above-captioned application would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Claims 16-19 depend from amended claim 15 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 16-19 must be read as including the limitation of a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '943 reference in view of the '685 reference be withdrawn.

8. Claims 1-12 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,318,774 to Karr et al. ("the '774 reference") in view of the '943 reference and the '685 reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 of the above-captioned application, as amended, includes the limitation of "elongated ridges extending along the first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of the component in the component mounting."

None of the cited references disclose elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting, as required by amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application. The Examiner characterizes the '774 reference as having "ridges at the distal end, near the fastening means 4." The Examiner does not identify any particular structure and it is unclear to Applicant what structure the Examiner is referring to as being equivalent to the ridges in the above-captioned application. The ridges in the above-captioned application extend along the first and

second resilient members which are part of the component mounting. Thus, the '774 reference clearly does not disclose elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting. As a result, Applicant contends that the claimed subject matter set forth in amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Claims 2-12 depend from amended claim 1 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 2-12 must be read as including the limitation of elongated ridges extending along first and second resilient members for strengthening a retention of a component in a component mounting.

Claim 15 of the above-captioned application, as amended, includes the limitation of "a containing portion having a through-hole for housing the sensor and for allowing the sensor to sense an object therethrough, said through-hole defining a rounded edge at the show surface of the fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to the rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface, said containing portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being integrally molded to the rear side of the fascia."

None of the cited references disclose a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface, as required by amended claim 15 of the above-captioned application. According to the Examiner, the '943 reference discloses "a rounded proximal end." The '943 reference, however, clearly does not disclose a through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia *and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface*. Further, the '774 reference clearly does not disclose a through-

hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and a show surface.

In light of the foregoing, the cited references do not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface. As a result, Applicant contends that the claimed subject matter set forth in amended claim 15 of the above-captioned application would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention.

Claims 16-19 depend from amended claim 15 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 16-19 must be read as including the limitation of a containing portion having a through-hole for housing a sensor, the through-hole defining a rounded edge at a show surface of a fascia and a flat portion generally parallel to a rear side and disposed between the rear side and the show surface.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '774 reference in view of the '943 reference and the '685 reference be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

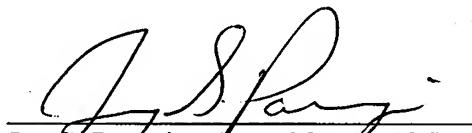
9. The Examiner advises "that should claim 11 be found allowable, claim 15 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof." In response, Applicant respectfully points out that claim 11 and claim 15 have each been amended such that claim 15 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 11.

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It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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